



# ***COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA***

## ***Department of Emergency Management***

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE  
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD  
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273  
FEMA-1411-DR-VA  
Commonwealth Situation Report #1  
Monday, 6 May 2002**

**1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

1200 hours 5 May 2002 through 1200 hours 6 May 2002.

**2. SITUATION:**

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west, and once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local declarations of emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain, and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

**3. WEATHER:**

Tuesday: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Rain heavy at times. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s. West winds 10-15 mph. Chance of rain 60 percent.

**3. CURRENT PRIORITIES:**

- A. Provide news releases to media regarding Teleregistration and application process.
- B. Determine DRC Locations.
- C. Provide for immediate Teleregistration opportunities.
- D. Continue to process PDA data.
- E. Complete FEMA/Commonwealth Agreement.
- F. Prepare for visit of Region III Director.

**4. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**

**A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

- A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will be at the Hurley Elementary and Middle School, Route 643 & 83, Hurley, Virginia. Beginning Tuesday, 7 May 2002, it will be operational from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily until further notice.
- Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Red Cross intends to open a Service Center in Buchanan County in addition to fielding outreach service teams in the area.
- Donations are being accepted at the disaster site in Buchanan County. County volunteers are distributing them.
- The Regional Health Department is administering tetanus shots to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School.
- Food and water are being distributed at the school and by the Red Cross ERVs.
- The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is helping Buchanan County find housing for victims.
- The Virginia Health Department continues its "boil water" advisory in portions of Buchanan County and is providing information on the way to restart wells.

**B. Public Assistance (PA)**

- PDA information is being assessed for possible request for Federal assistance.
- The National Guard is providing emergency debris clearance in the Hurley area.

**C. Community Relations (CR):**

- Two VDEM Regional Coordinators are on scene in Hurley.

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

- State Hazard Mitigation staff is scheduled to view Hurley area on 8 May.

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

- Public Affairs press releases on the DRC opening in Hurley and the scheduling of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) workshops have been issued.

**F. Legislative Liaison:**

- Governor Mark Warner and U.S. Senator George Allen visited disaster areas in central Virginia and were joined by State Senator Puckett and State Delegate Jackie Stump for disaster visits in Hurley and Tazewell County.

**G. Hazardous Materials:**

- Significant HazMat operations are ongoing in Buchanan County. Details in succeeding reports.

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6 May 2002

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**Michael M. Cline, SCO**